Message

From: Lopez, Peter [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B7B64B3B2F984708840A5F342309D460-LOPEZ, PETE]
Sent: 10/1/2019 5:26:23 PM
To: Mears, Mary [Mears.Mary@epa.gov]
CC: Rodriguez, Elias [Rodriguez.Elias@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: URGENT MEDIA INQUIRY: Northrop Grumman/Newsday - Updated

Hi Mary.

Perfect.

Good to go.

Sincerely,
Pete

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On Oct 1, 2019, at 11:29 AM, Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov> wrote:

> Hi Pete,
>
> Saw your texts and will respond shortly. In the meantime, below is that media inquiry that you wanted extra information added. It took a bit, but we got the information. Let me know if we are good to go.
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> **STATUS:** Open
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> **PAO CONTACT:** Elias Rodriguez
>
> **Reporter:** David Schwartz, Environmental reporter, Newsday, DSCHWAR1@newsday.com, tel. 631-843-2718
>
> **Deadline: COB Monday**
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> **Question(s) from reporter:**
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> On Northrop Grumman, RCRA Corrective Action Facility - Bethpage, NY: "I know it's a state superfund site, but I also know your office has been involved off and on over concern from water districts and local officials that the DEC has been too slow to act in some cases. I was wondering if your technical staff could help quantify how large or complex this site is? The state has described it as the largest and most complex over a sole-source aquifer in the state. How would your folks quantify it?"
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> **Proposed response:**

Hi David, Thank you for covering Long Island through the years. As you know, EPA is addressing VOC contamination of groundwater on Long Island through various Superfund cleanups, and NY State is also addressing VOCs at many of their state-lead Superfund sites.

Re: Northrop Grumman, (not a federal Superfund site) RCRA Corrective Action Facility - Bethpage, NY

- The facility is located on 925 South Oyster Bay Rd, Bethpage, NY. In 1941, Northrop Grumman (NG) purchased the property and started production of aircraft during WWII. The Navy also began operations at an adjacent property. This resulted in a 109-acre Government-Owned Contractor-Operated (GOCO) facility operated by the Navy and a neighboring 550-acre NG-owned and operated facility.

- A major focus of the remediation is an off-site groundwater plume which is **approximately 4-mile long and 2-mile wide, and extends to a depth of 900 feet below the ground surface in several areas.** The primary contaminant is TCE, and there also is 1,4-dioxane contaminants. **This is a very large and complex plume. By some estimates, the State's proposed remedy would result in the overall groundwater remedy here being the largest active groundwater remedy in NY.**

- Groundwater is the virtual sole source for potable water in Nassau County. A number of public water supply systems are affected (undergoing treatment) or are in the path of this groundwater plume. As the groundwater plume is not uniformly contaminated, the Navy and Grumman are working on treatment of several highly contaminated areas (hotspots). NYSDEC is working with the USGS on developing a detailed plan for eventual containment of this plume, with discharge of treated groundwater back into the aquifer.

Technical Background:

Northrop Grumman continues to operate the on-site groundwater containment system (ONCT). This system prevents off-site migration of site contaminants by withdrawing 5.5 million gallons of contaminated water per day from five groundwater extraction wells. Operation of this system has produced an area of clean water downgradient of the ONCT system and the system has removed nearly 200,000 pounds of VOC contamination from the aquifer since operation began in 1998.

Northrop Grumman continues to operate Bethpage Community Park on-site groundwater containment system (BCP ONCT). This system prevents off-site migration of site contaminants by withdrawing 0.3 million gallons of contaminated water per day from four groundwater extraction wells. Operation of this system has produced an area of clean water downgradient of the BCP ONCT system and the system has removed nearly 2,200 pounds of VOC contamination from the aquifer since operation began in 2009.

The RW-21 Area is an off-site area where high concentrations of site contaminants exist in groundwater. NG has installed 3 extraction wells in this area. A treatment plant is planned for construction on the Navy property. Property access is needed for installing underground conveyance piping.

Northrop Grumman has drilled a series of 230 in-situ thermal remediation wells to address VOC contamination that remains in soil in the area of the Former Grumman Settling Ponds (former ballfield area). Underground piping is being installed to connect the wells to a heating system. This system will drive off the VOCS, which are captured and treated at the McKay Field treatment plant. Once processed through the system, the treated water will be discharged to a nearby recharge basin, while treated vapors will be discharged to the atmosphere. It is anticipated that treatment will begin in early 2020.